

Additional Exhibit

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT ~~10~~ 11
DATE 3-6-09
HB 634

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative McAlpin
Representative Becker, Chair
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 634, Revise law on transportation of mentally ill

Date: March 6, 2009

Dear Representative McAlpin and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 634 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 634.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities.

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.